COCHIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(OFFICIAL REPORT)

LEGISLATIVE SESSION OF 1102.

Wednesday, the *23rd of February 1927.* / *11th of Kumbham 1102.*

The Council assembled in the Town Hall, Ernakulam, at 11-30 a. m. on Wednesday, the 11th of Kumbham 1102, corresponding to the 23rd of February 1927, the Diwan presiding. Messrs. E. Ikkanda Wariar, Lonappan Chakkola, Poulo Mampilli, A. Sankara Puduval, A. K. Thoma and H. J. Walmesly were absent.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The reduction of pay of the Heads of Departments.

278. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—(a) Will the Government be pleased to state whether there was any proposal to reduce the pay of the Heads of Departments on the ground of top-heavy administration, at least in the case of new incumbents, during the Diwanship of Mr. P. Narayana Menon;

(b) if so, was any action taken in pursuance thereof;

(c) whether such a course is not desirable at least in future, and consider the case of low paid subordinates instead?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) No.

(b) No answer is necessary.

(c) The Special Finance Committee is paying attention to the matter.

The Anchal Department.

279. **Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

(i) whether the jurisdiction of a Postal Inspector in the Madras Presidency is not much bigger than that of the Anchal Department in Cochin;

(ii) whether, in 1099 M. E., the inspection work (of the Inspector) was not done by a solitary hand satisfactorily, instead of two, before and after;

(iii) whether, in the interests of efficiency and retrenchment, it will not be advisable to have the Inspector, if necessary, with enhanced powers and an attender, especially, when the

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number of officers here is much less than that of the British Postal Inspector;

(iv) whether the present Junior Inspector is invariably doing the work of the Superintendent's camp clerk at present;

(v) whether a small clerk on much less pay and allowance could not serve that purpose bringing to the department much saving;

(vi) whether the department could not manage with two Railway Mail sorters, giving one day off to each sorter for the very short distance he has to travel;

(vii) whether all the Anchal Offices in the State are self-supporting, and, if not, the names of those that are not;

(viii) whether it would not be advisable in the interests of the department to reduce such losing sub-offices into branch offices;

(ix) whether all the Taluk Offices could not be made account offices as well, as in the British Postal Department, so that the staff in the Superintendent's Office could be very much reduced, and more efficient supervision could be had at a much short notice;

(x) whether it would not be in the interests of both the public and the department to introduce Insurance and Savings Bank branches of work;

(xi) whether stamps, envelopes and cards could not be printed in the State alone, effecting considerable savings in the purchase of the same; and

(xii) the total cost of printing Anchal cards, etc., on the last occasion and face value of such articles?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(i) Yes.

(ii) No.

(iii) No; because the work of the Anchal Inspector is quite different from that of the British Postal Inspector.

(iv) No; but he has occasionally been made to do some writing work for the Superintendent when in camp. This is done to avoid taking a clerk from the Head Office.

(v) The appointment of a special clerk for that work is not desirable in the interests of economy.

(vi) No. This was tried once, but was found unsatisfactory.

(vii) Excepting 14 sub and 3 branch Anchal Offices, all the rest are self-supporting. The former are also self-supporting when the value of delivery work done is also taken into account. The names of the 17 offices referred to are given in Appendix I. *(Vide Appendix I.)*

(viii) Some offices may, perhaps, be reduced. This will be enquired into.

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(ix) This could not be done. Such work cannot be entrusted with safety to Anchal-masters.

(x) No. The Government do not think it worthwhile to introduce Insurance and Savings Bank branches of work in the department.

(xi) The feasibility of local manufacture is under consideration by the Special Finance Committee.

(xii) Total cost—Rs. 34,333—8—0.
Face value—Rs. 1,47,000—0—0.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—The answer to part (i) is "yes". I ask: Is it bigger than that of the whole Anchal Department or is it bigger than the jurisdiction of an Anchal Inspector?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—It is bigger.

President.—The jurisdiction of the Anchal Department of the Cochin State is to be compared with the jurisdiction of the Postal Inspector of the British parts.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The latter is bigger.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—With reference to the answer to part (ii), i. e., the inspection work of the Inspector, who were those, and how many offices were inspected by these Inspectors?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I cannot give the answer off-hand. I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I also give notice now?

President.—You should give a formal notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Part (iv). Does the Superintendent take any clerk or this Inspector, when he goes outside for inspection work?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice. To the best of my information, he does not take any clerk with him.

President.—Suppose the Junior Inspector is not available, how does he do the work?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I cannot say.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Part (vi). Does the mail sorter who leaves Ernakulam return on the same evening to Ernakulam?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Yes. He returns.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Is he given a holiday next day?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I want notice for that.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How is it that they say they cannot manage; how many mail sorters are there?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—One head sorter and two ordinary sorters.

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Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—How many days' leave are available to each sorter?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have no definite information here. I want notice.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was this matter referred to the Special Finance Committee?

President.—That appears to be a new question.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Was enquiry made regarding this, before giving this answer, whether it would be a profitable one or not?

President.—Whatever enquiry was necessary was made.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—The Comptroller of Accounts submitted proposals for introducing Savings Banks in treasuries. So no enquiry was made.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Part (xi). I want to know what they mean by the word "local"— whether it is Cochin State or India.

President.—We had not meant outside Cochin. You want to manufacture these in the State. Not outside Cochin.

Pupils of the depressed classes in the various Sirkar schools.

280. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table statistics showing the number of pupils of the depressed classes that are now studying in the different departments of schools conducted by Sirkar and private agencies?

Mr. C. Matthai.—The following are the figures at the end of 1101:—

	Upper Secondary.	Lower Secondary.	Primary.	Industrial Schools.
Pulayas ..	19	2,943		6
Others ..	6	1,065		..

281. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to state the exact number of Pulaya pupils now studying in the different departments of schools in the State?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide answer to question No. 280.

282. Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a list of Sirkar as well as aided schools in which there are not a single pupil of the depressed classes?

Mr. C. Matthai.—Vide lists (A) and (B) appended. (*Vide Appendix II.*)

The several communities and Government appointments.

283. Mr. K. T. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to mention.—

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do not want to give the Members of the Legislative Council in our State the same respect, honour and privilege as is accorded to the Members of the Travancore Council by the Government there;

(b) whether the Legislative Council as at present constituted does not form a part of the Government;

(c) whether any Member of the Legislative Council is included in the Durbar list, in virtue of his being Member of the Council; and if the answer is in the negative, what is the reason for excluding the representatives of the people from State Durbars which are recognised to be Government functions?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—(a) The practice obtaining here is in the opinion of the Government, not open to objection.

(b) Vide answer to question No. 152 of the last Vrischigam sitting of the Council.

(c) Members of the Legislative Council are included in such lists.

APPENDIX I.

(Vide Answer to Question No. 279.)

Sub-Anchal Offices.

1. Nalleppalli
2. Tattamangalam
3. Cheruvirutti
4. Erumapetti
5. Mullurkara
6. Palayannur
7. Tiruvilluamala
8. Mundur
9. Alur
10. Kattur
11. Adur
12. Mala
13. Chowwara
14. Andikkadavu

Branch Anchal Offices.

1. Malayattur
2. Mulakunnattukavu
3. Kolinjampara

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